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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GY
SUBJECT: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN GUYANA

REF: (A) 77 STATE 295621 (B) 77 STATE 291277

1. IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS MADE DURING 1977 IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN REFERENCE, A, COUNTRY TEAM PROPOSES THAT THE STATEMENT BE REVISED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT:
I. CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
--PROMOTE US-GUYANA DIALOGUE. MAKE DECISIONS CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF US BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, INCLUSION OF GUYANA ON GSP LIST FOR SUGAR, AND ON GUYANA'S ELIGIBILITY FOR LIMITED ARMS PURCHASES UNDER FMS. COMMUNICATE THESE DECISION TO THE GOG SO THAT EXPECTATIONS DO NOT BECOME UNREALISTIC.
--THROUGH USG ACTIONS AND SYMBOLIC GESTURES PROVIDE INDICATIONS OF US ACCEPTANCE OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM.
--ENCOURAGE GOG TO MAINTAIN ITS GOOD RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
--KEEP THE GUYANESE AWARE OF US INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ACCESS TO CALCINED BAUXITE AT ACCEPTABLE PRICES.
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II. DEVELOPMENT OF A MODERATE GUYANESE ROLE IN MULTILATERAL FORA.
--ENCOURAGE GUYANA TO CONTINUE THE PRAGMATIC AND MODERATE POSTURE IT ASSUMED IN MULTILATERAL FORA DURING 1977 ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.
--FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HELPFUL GUYANESE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF US POSITIONS

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ON MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL POLITICAL ISSUES.
--ENCOURAGE A GROWING GUYANESE TENDENCY TO ADOPT POLICIES INDEPENDENT FROM THOSE OF CUBA IN NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS, AND BOLSTER GUYANA'S AMBITIONS TO SUPPLANT CUBA AS THE HEMISPHERIC LEADER OF THE NAM.
--ENCOURAGE GUYANA TO JOIN THE OAS, AND SUPPORT HER EFFORTS TO DO SO.
III. ENCOURAGE GUYANESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
--PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG GUYANESE LEADERS OF THE POSITIVE ROLE PRIVATE CAPITAL CAN PLAY IN GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGE THE GOG TO TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL.
--PROVIDE BILATERAL SUPPORT TO GUYANA TO ENABLE IT TO REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL AS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: GUYANESE EXPECTATIONS FOR INCREASES IN US BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE HAVE RISEN AS A RESULT OF THE STATEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SIGNALING AN OVERALL INCREASE OF US ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN NATIONS. BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER GUYANA TO BE MORE STABLE, BETTER MANAGED AND OSSESSING MORE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT THAN JAMAICA, GUYANESE LEADERS HOPE THAT THE US, IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ITS OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE REGION, WILL ASSIST GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT AS A SOURCE OF FOOD AND HYDRO-;3)3:548: ;POWER FOR THE REGION.
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ALSO, HAVING MODERATED ITS ATTITUDES AND INCREASED ITS COOPERATION WITH THE US IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, THE GOG WILL EXPECT A CONCOMITANT RISE IN US WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN ITS DEVELOPMENT.

4. GUYANESE LEADERS ARE SEEKING NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS WITHIN THE FRAMWORK OF THEIR BRAND OF SOCIALISM, WHICH INCLUDES A TRISECTORAL ECONOMY, I.E. STATE, COOPEATIVE, AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. THE GOG MIGHT NOW WELCOME A LARGER ROLE FOR FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS IN THE ECONOMY. SOME DOMESTIC BUSINESSMEN BELIEVE THIS, BUT LACK CAPITAL--PARTICULARLY THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE--WITH WHICH THEY COULD EXPAND THEIR FACILITIES OR MAKE NEW FACILITIES. IF THE ROLE OF PRIVATE CAPITAL INCREASES, AND THE USG-GOG DIALOGUE CONTINUES, SUPPORT BY US BILATERAL AID, THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT GUYANA'S FUTURE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COURSE CAN BE CHANNELED DOWN THE ROAD OF SOCIAL DEMO-CRACY RATHER THAN A MORE AUTHORITARIAN FORM OF SOCIALISM. AS GUYANA'S COURSE AND POLICIES HAVE INFLUENCED OTHER CARIBBEAN NATIONS IN THE PAST, IT PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE DIRECTION OF

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OTHERS. THE MISSION BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT
A SPECIFIC EFFORT TO INFLUENCE GUYANA DOWN A MODERATE
PATH IS WARRANTED. THIS WOULD TAKE A SOMEWHAT GREATER
COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES AND OVERALL US EFFORT THAN IS
NOW PROJECTED.
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